

Hafa Adai!

CPA reminds public to follow public health measures at its ports. **PAGE 2**
NMHC awards grant to create animation of Chamorro oral stories. **PAGE 13**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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\$144.84M budget passes House

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed with a few amendments Tuesday a bill that appropriates \$103.38 million of the \$144.84 million the CNMI expects to earn in fiscal year 2022, to fund the operations and activities of the government and its agencies and independent programs next fiscal year.

» **Blanco declared present in spirit at the session**

The measure, House Bill 22-74, which was authored by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), passed by a vote of 18-0; it now goes to the Senate for action. The

See **BUDGET** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:31pm, Aug. 4, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **72.1%**
Fully Vaccinated:

Days since last community transmission **134**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	27,959
Fully Vaccinated:	25,911
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,329
Fully Vaccinated:	4,078
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	573

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,593	30	8,623
Recovered	8,361	0	8,361
Active	89	30	119
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	198	0	198
Traced via Travel Screening	161	0	161
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.



House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) discusses a bill that he authored for Fiscal Year 2022's government budget during a House session Tuesday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DPS executes warrants in Marpi hit-and-run

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Exactly a week since the body

of a 20-year-old woman was found lifeless on the shoulder of Route 30 in Marpi, the Department of Public Safety has

executed warrants and taken possession of the vehicles believed to have been involved in the incident.

In a statement from DPS yesterday, persons of interest have been questioned and

See **DPS** on **Page 4**

'\$1.9M rental assistance paid to 723 applicants so far'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of \$1,985,509 in Emer-

gency Rental Assistance Program has been paid out so far to 723 applicants, according to Office of Grants Management

administrator Epiphania Cabrera Jr. yesterday.

In an interview at the ERA office at the former Pena

House in Chalan Kanoa, Cabrera said the Department of Finance is the one process-

See **\$1.9M** on **Page 4**

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Small Business Development Center on Saipan has a new director, Arden Sablan.

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LOCAL

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council awards Jennifer Tamen with a Community Grant.

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ENVIRONMENT

Do you want to make a difference in the community? Sign up as an Eco Helper!

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

CPA reminds public to follow public health measures at its ports

In light of the emergence of the COVID-19 delta variant, the Commonwealth Ports Authority continues to remind the public that it must adhere to the public health measures consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on public modes of transportation and at ports of entry to the United States.

These guidelines are contained within CDC's Jan. 29, 2021, emergency order, which

remains in effect.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, CPA reminds the public that all persons must wear masks over their mouth and nose when traveling and while at CPA airports and seaports.

There are five circumstances where an individual will not be required to wear a mask: while eating, drinking, or taking medication, for brief periods; while communicating

with a person who is hearing impaired when the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication; when the use of an oxygen mask is needed on an aircraft; when an individual is incapacitated, unable to be awakened, or unable to remove the mask without assistance, excluding sleeping; and when necessary to verify one's identity, such as during Transportation Security Administration screening.

There are also three exemptions from the mask wearing requirement. The following individuals are not required to wear masks at CPA ports: children under the age of 2; persons with disabilities that cannot wear a mask because of the disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; and persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duties.

In accordance with President Joe Biden's Jan. 21, 2021, executive order, CDC guidelines, and other Federal memoranda, CPA has expanded its efforts to ensure that any person entering or on airport or seaport premises wears a mask.

These efforts continue to include the requirement that all employees, tenants, vendors, visitors, and traveling passengers properly wear masks at CPA ports. A properly worn mask will completely cover the nose and mouth of the wearer. Additionally, persons requesting an exemption from the requirement to wear a mask must provide a medical consultation by a third party or medical documentation by a licensed medical provider that advises the person not wear a mask. Individuals requesting an exemption must also provide evidence that he does not have COVID-19, such as a negative result from a SAR-

CoV-2 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. Last, any persons refusing to comply and wear a mask or act in compliance with CDC guidelines will be removed from the premises.

Additionally, in light of the delta variant and increased tourism, CPA has implemented additional measures at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to provide greater public health protection. These measures include allowing only ticketed passengers beyond certain areas during flight operations and designating an area for passenger pick-up.

CPA also asks that travelers comply with all signs posted at the airport and all TSA and public awareness messages announced over the public address system.

These measures will relieve congestion at the entrance and exits of the terminal and facilitate social distancing. (PR)

Bill to establish subsistence allowance for Rota dialysis patients vetoed anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the advice of the attorney general on a similar legislation last year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed again a Senate local bill that proposes to establish a medical subsistence program for hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients on Rota.

Torres informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider and Rota Legislative Delegation co-chairpersons Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) last Monday about his disapproval of Senate Local Bill 22-1, Draft 1, which was passed by the Rota Legislative Delegation of the 22nd Legislature.

Offered by Santos, S.L.B. 22-1, D1 seeks to establish the medical subsistence allowance program for Rota hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients by addressing the issues Torres raised when he vetoed a similar bill, Senate Local Bill 21-2, S1, last year.

The governor said he commends the delegation's intent to provide additional assistance and support to Rota's medical patients but, similar to the case in Senate Local Bill 21-2, S1, as advised by the AG, several legal issues arise from the enactment of this bill that warrants his disapproval again.

Torres said this bill provides that "patients who are resi-

dents of Rota for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the date of the Act may apply for medical subsistence allowance."

The governor said the language runs afoul of the Equal Protection Clause, which prohibits states from enacting strict residency requirements.

If challenged, he said, the durational residency requirement in Section 102 of the bill must survive scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause. "It is unlikely that the residency requirement will be upheld as the local bill does not provide any rationale for the requirement," Torres pointed out.

He said the bill is beyond the delegation's constitutional authority.

Section 103 of the bill directs the Rota Health Center to designate five staff members to evaluate and certify whether a patient is terminally-ill to receive the medical subsistence allowance. The listing would be provided to the Rota mayor.

Torres said this section interferes with the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to oversee the operations of the Rota Health Center and the interisland medical referral services. He said the delegation cannot override CHCC's authority over the Rota Health Center.

The governor said a local measure is unenforceable if it contravenes a Common-

See BILL on Page 4

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Arden Sablan is the new SBDC chief



Sablan

The Small Business Development Center on Saipan has a new director, Arden Sablan, who was introduced yesterday during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

Sablan later said in an interview that he assumed the director position roughly two weeks ago, after former SBDC director Nicole Babauta stepped down to pursue other endeavors.

In recognizing Babauta for her contributions to SBDC, Sablan said he has "amazing shoes to fill."

"I'd like to say that Nicole Babauta [has] been a tremendous community service model, and I wish to carry on her legacy to the best of my ability in conjunction with her. I'm glad she was able to be that guiding light, currently still in some fashions, to allow me to perform my duties better and be a better community service member. She's amazing, and I have two amazing shoes to fill," said Sablan.

Sablan himself was a small business owner and served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nine years.

Sablan also shared at the Chamber meeting that Bank of Hawaii's \$5,000 Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant is now accepting applications.

Sablan said that five grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded to "those who wish to expand their business locally and looking for a funding source."

Small business owners with a successful track record in

business operation or management and who have not yet

been a recipient of the Small Business Revitalization and

Development Grant are invited to submit applications by

Friday, Aug. 6, 2021.

SBDC is currently located at the Northern Marianas College As Terlaje campus' Building P, and is open from

8am-5pm, Monday to Friday. It can be reached via phone at (670) 237-6888 or via email at cnmisbdc@pacificsbdc.com. (Joshua Santos)

<p>2015 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 4WD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$30,995</p> <p>STK: 15P327 60,757 MILES KBB: \$32,187</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA MAZDA3</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p> <p>STK: 18HS904 10,324 MILES KBB: \$16,402</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p> <p>STK: 8R271 54,194 MILES KBB: \$20,419</p>
<p>2014 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT</p> <p>• 44,202 MILES • STK: 19HS901B • KBB: \$14,024</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$12,995</p>	<p>2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER</p> <p>• 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068A • KBB: \$16,830</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p>	<p>2015 TOYOTA CAMRY LE</p> <p>• 44,202 MILES • STK: 15P325 • KBB: \$20,295</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>
<p>2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C</p> <p>• 48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$13,995</p> <p>SOLD</p>	<p>2018 KIA OPTIMA LX</p> <p>• 10,367 MILES • STK: 18HS925C • KBB: \$19,930</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p>	<p>2018 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT</p> <p>• 12,549 MILES • STK: 8M029D • KBB: \$19,751</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p>
<p>2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK</p> <p>• 10,564 MILES • STK: 18HS916 • KBB: \$15,477</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 TOURING H/B</p> <p>• 21,120 MILES • STK: 20D013A • KBB: \$17,801</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p>	<p>2011 TOYOTA 4RUNNER</p> <p>• 77,762 MILES • STK: 11P314 • KBB: \$21,336</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p>
<p>2016 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT</p> <p>• 55,153 MILES • STK: 16R269 • KBB: \$14,450</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>	<p>2018 KIA OPTIMA LX</p> <p>• 22,136 MILES • STK: 18HS926 • KBB: \$18,760</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p>	<p>2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL</p> <p>• 20,026 MILES • STK: 9H040D • KBB: \$21,411</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p>
<p>2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT</p> <p>• 10,120 MILES • STK: 8HS879 • KBB: \$19,402</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p>	<p>2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT</p> <p>• 4,180 MILES • STK: 20P307 • KBB: \$21,326</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>	<p>2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT</p> <p>• 18,617 MILES • STK: 15HS981 • KBB: \$23,603</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$22,995</p>
<p>2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT</p> <p>• 10,153 MILES • STK: 18HS905 • KBB: \$19,496</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p>	<p>2017 HYUNDAI VELOSTER</p> <p>• 10,095 MILES • STK: 17P326 • KBB: \$18,785</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD SPORT</p> <p>• 32,148 MILES • STK: 17P331 • KBB: \$42,590</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$39,995</p> <p>SOLD</p>

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Eleven awarded Saipan Chamber of Commerce scholarships

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce awarded scholarship grants to 11 students yesterday during its general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

The Northern Marianas College produced four scholars this year, with rising college freshmen Amy Rayn Soliman and Tessa Jo Sablan declaring as Nursing majors ahead of the fall 2021 semester. Jamerie E. Paras and Maricon Bricia-Allen, who are both Business Management majors at the college, rounded out NMC's Chamber scholarship recipients this year.

Seven scholars are pursuing higher education off-island. Ivan S. Blanco is a rising sophomore at the University of Guam studying Business Administration; Justin Del Rosario will be at the University of San Diego to study Chemistry on a Pre-Medical track; Ryan Kang will be at Bowdoin College to study Neuroscience; Theresa Zheng is currently studying Pharma-



This year's 11 scholarship recipients of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Education Award share a photo with SCC leadership and several representatives of sponsors for the SCC's 2021 Golf Tournament after an awarding ceremony yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

JOSHUA SANTOS

cy at Northeastern University; Samantha Liske-Clark will be at New York University's Abu Dhabi campus to study Biology; Stephanie Tan Flores will be at Illinois College to study Biology; and Katrina Costales will be at Whitworth University to study Front-End Development Design.

Blanco said after the award-

ing ceremony that he feels "excited and motivated to continue to pursue higher education." He thanked the SCC, its board members, and his aunt in particular for "being there and pushing me to write and giving me great ideas for my essay."

On stage to present the scholarships were several representatives of sponsors for

the SCC's 2021 Golf Tournament and members of SCC leadership. As the students received honorary certificates and shook hands with those on stage, pre-recorded videos of the students saying who they are, where they are studying, and what they plan on doing in the future played in the background.

BUDGET

From Page 1

House clerk only counted 18 lawmakers who voted "yes" as Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) had stepped out of the chamber just as the roll was being called.

An emotional moment occurred at the start of the session when the House staff repeatedly called the late Rep. Ivan James A. Blanco's (R-Saipan)

name during the roll call. House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) later declared that 19 lawmakers were present and one was there "in spirit."

House Bill 22-74 identified the total budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022 at \$144.85 million. A total of \$45.95 million was deducted from that amount for debt service (\$3,621,250 for 2007 A Refunding Bond Payment and \$3,330,250 for 2007B Refunding Bond Payment)

and \$39 million for the Settlement Fund.

This leaves the government \$98,897,301 that's available for appropriation in fiscal year 2022. Including the \$4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is \$103,384,323.

The Judiciary is allocated \$1,227,664, while the Legislature is allocated \$3,384,543, and the Executive Branch, \$25,282,849.

The Office of the governor is appropriated \$690,100, while the Office of the Lt. Governor is \$379,522.

The Department of Commerce is budgeted at \$1,034,900; Department of

Community and Cultural Affairs, \$1,063,435; Department of Corrections, \$2,793,447; Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, \$3,776,256; Department of Finance, \$3,728,831; Department of Labor, \$528,648; Department of Lands and Natural Resources, \$609,055; Department of Public Safety, \$4,938,880; Department of Public Works, \$2,935,493.

Rota is appropriated \$5,926,191; Tinian and Agui-guan, \$6,166,576; and the Saipan Mayor, Northern Islands Mayor, and Saipan Municipal Council, \$2,084,001.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

\$1.9M

From Page 1

ing the ERA payments to the landlords. He said ERA applications are processed at their office and they send it off to Finance for payments.

"So far, the process is moving along. It's just the way we're trying to prepare," Cabrera said.

He conceded that the CNMI has a mark to hit when it comes to expending this funding assistance. That target is to expend 65% of the \$10.9 million that the CNMI received in ERA 1.

Cabrera said every two to three days, they receive checks of about \$130,000 to \$243,000 in payments from Finance as they get processed.

He said they are prepared to do the recertification process for the approved applicants. "We can pay up to three months prospective rent and then the inspectors have to go back to recertify the household to make sure that they're still living there so that we can give them another three months of prospective," he said.

Cabrera said they can't just give money as they have to determine if the applicants are still living there or not, and check if they no longer qualify for the program because they made an extra income.

"We have to do our due diligence in the recertification process," he pointed out.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Last week's winner of \$2,000 gets his prize; \$2,500 today

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vicente Iriarte, who was last Friday's winner of \$2,000 in the Road to 80 raffle draw, finally got hold of his prize yesterday, soon after getting his second vaccine shot—and thus be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Road to 80 program manager and raffle host Brad Ruzsala personally handed Iriarte his prize yesterday morning during a Facebook livestream from the Marianas High School vaccination outreach site.

During the livestream, Ruzsala announced what is coming up next in prizes as part of Road to 80 vaccination campaign. One winner of \$2,500 will be announced today and that \$3,000 will be raffled off on Aug. 13; \$3,500 on Aug. 20; and \$4,000 on Aug. 27.

Road to 80's grand finale on Aug. 28 at the Taste of the Marianas main stage will feature six raffles: three \$2,500 prizes each for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and three CNMI-wide raffles to select one winner each for \$5,000, \$15,000, and a 2020 Nissan

Rogue Sport.

Today, Aug. 5, Road to 80 will be selecting one winner of \$2,500 during a livestream on its Facebook page. To qualify, a person must be a CNMI resident and must have already received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. Everyone who has registered at vaccinatecnmi.com to be vaccinated and has received their shots qualify for the raffle.

For winners to claim their prize, they must submit proof that they are fully vaccinated. For those who received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, this means providing the second vaccine confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines only need to provide their single vaccine confirmation number.

Road to 80's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/roadto80cnmi>.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

DPS

From Page 1

warrants have been issued, allowing DPS to take possession of vehicles that could have been involved in the fatal hit-and-run that claimed the life of Sophia Patricia Aldan Demapan.

"DPS and its officers continue to work diligently on this case. Investigators have questioned persons of interest involved in this case and, after following up on the numerous leads and information given through the interviews, calls, or anonymous tips, investigators were able to execute warrants critical to the case. DPS has since taken possession of the vehicle(s) believed to be involved in this incident and continues to follow up on any information relating to this incident that took place on the night of July 27, 2021," the statement said.

The case remains under investigation. DPS said more

information and updates will be given at a later time, reportedly "in an effort to prevent any possibility of jeopardizing the case."

Saipan Tribune learned from a credible source yesterday that an autopsy will be conducted on the deceased this Friday.

For those who may still have information on the case, DPS is encouraging them to report it to the department. For those who want to remain anonymous, contact the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Meanwhile, the family of Demapan continues to search for answers with its "Justice-ForSophia" movement. Demapan's loved ones have posted numerous videos and have dedicated dozens of posts about the deceased and are urging the community to share any information they have on what happened that night.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BILL

From Page 2

wealth statute.

Also, Torres said the language of Section 104 (c) in the bill mandates that a patient consent to the release of name to the mayor for the purpose of requesting "payment of the [Rota Medical Subsistence

Allowance Program]." He said the right to privacy is protected by Article 1, Section 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution and the federal statute commonly referred to as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

At the same time, Torres said, the local bill fails to articulate a compelling reason for receiving the allowance.



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Friday, August 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Old Business**
 - a. Board of Directors Liability Insurance
- 4) **New Business**
 - a. Management & Staff Liability Insurance
 - b. CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
 - i. Creation of TRIP Adhoc Committees
 - i. TRIP Korea
 - ii. TRIP Japan
 - iii. TRIP Hong Kong
 - iv. TRIP Australia
 - v. TRIP Taiwan
 - b. CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan- Program Extension
 - c. Additional Funding for Taste of the Marianas
- 5) **Executive Session**
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



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BEEF**

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 August 5, 2021

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 AT 1:00 PM. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. July 22, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - a. Set Compensation and Benefits' Package for Economic Development Manager's Position
 - b. Policy Guidelines on Disposal of Foreclosed Properties
 - B. Comptroller's Report
 1. CEDA & SSBCI Financial Status
 2. Delinquent Receivables' Write Off
 3. Board Action to Increase Allocation for Direct Loan Program
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Deliberation & Action/Cancellation on 2020-CDA-01-RFQ-Construction of Rent-to-Own Home Units, on Saipan, Rota & Tinian
 - B. Deliberation & Action/Cancellation or Modify the Rent-to-Own Home Program
 - C. Board Action to Hold, Sell or to Consider Other Options for Saipan, Tinian & Rota Properties
 - D. Deliberation & Action on Marianas Tech Center's Proposal
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Status Update on CEDA's Collaboration with Pacific Islands' Development Bank, Department of Commerce and Other Banking Institutions
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
 Chairwoman, CEDA Board of Directors

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 August 5, 2021

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. July 17, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. DCD Financial Status
 - B. Board Action to Increase Funds Allocation for Direct Loan Program
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Loan Applications/Loan Matters
 1. Tinian Shipping Services, LLC
 2. Richard Taisacan
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
 Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

ON NMTI ACCREDITATION INSPECTION

'It's looking good'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
 joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

A review of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's students, staff, curriculum, and organizational structure is "looking good," according to a representative from the National Construction Center for Education and Research who visited NMTI last month for possible accreditation of the school.

Herbert "Bert" Johnston Jr., who is the education director of the Guam Contractors Association Trades Academy and is a sponsor representative and master trainer for the NCCER, said his site visit last July 19 to 22 showed him that NMTI is filled with "a lot of people that are extremely dedicated to what they're doing here."

In an interview with Johnston last July 22, he said he was actually involved with the formation of NMTI itself during the time of late businessman Anthony Pellegrino, and said that he gave Pellegrino advice at the time on how to make a trade school on Saipan a reality. Given NMTI's recent changes in management, Johnston said he met with NMTI staff and NMTI's board of trustees during his July 19-22 visit to speak again about the advice he gave to Pellegrino and to discuss NMTI's options moving forward. He also updated NMTI's staff on NCCER's recent transition to fully-online testing, reviewed a large portion of NMTI's classes for NCCER accreditation, and performed an audit of the trade school.

When asked for his outlook on NMTI in its current state, in his capacity as an NCCER representative, Johnston first made clear that the NCCER's main intention is to see trades programs improve.

"Our job is not to be condescending and say, 'You need to get to these standards.' Our job is to help improve. ...We're just saying here's a couple of issues you may want to pay attention to, these are a couple of corrections you may need to pay attention to. ...But for the most part I haven't seen any of that [with NMTI]," he said.

As far as the people that NMTI is currently built around, Johnston was very pleased with what he saw. "It's looking good. ...I have found a lot of people that are extremely dedicated to what they're doing here, and [they] have huge potential in making this place a great place," Johnston added.

NMTI's board of trustees appointed Jodina Attao as NMTI's interim chief executive officer last March 20. The school's slated reopening on Aug. 18 after closing last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as NMTI's other ongoing and future initiatives, have all taken place under the watch of Attao in recent months.

The NCCER is a not-for-profit education foundation created in 1996 that provides course accreditation and testing services for thousands of trade schools and programs across the United States.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2021 Third General Membership Meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021 at Kevin's – Aqua Resort Club from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of August 9, 2021
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2021 SRC Second General Membership Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2021
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. SRC Workshop/Professional Development/New Members Orientation
 - b. OVR Executive Director Position
- VII. New Business
 - a. SRC Shared Google Drive
 - b. Revisitation of Sub-Committee Responsibilities
 - c. Distribution of iPads
 - d. National Disability Employer Awareness Month (NDEAM) Planning Committee
- VIII. Public Forum
- IX. Miscellaneous/Announcements
 - a. International Day for Coastal Clean-Up on September 18, 2021
- X. Next meeting: _____
- XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation (such as large print or sign language interpreter), as well as for those who would prefer to attend virtually, Zoom availability is an option. Please call Tiava To'omata at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, August 6, 2021 to communicate the necessary arrangements.

/s/
PRESTON O. BASA, SRC CHAIRPERSON

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Elected DPS chief proposed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) introduced Tuesday a House legislative Initiative that proposed to amend the CNMI Constitution and make the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety an elected position.

If House Legislative 22-01 passes the Legislature, the question will be put to a vote and CNMI voters will decide whether or not they would like to elect the DPS commissioner.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) referred the legislative initiative to the Judiciary and Govern-

mental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Celina R. Bauta (D-Saipan).

Propst, who is a known critic of DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, stated in the legislation that it is critical for DPS to be free of political influence and interference as enforcers of law and order. Unfortunately, Propst said, this has not been the case, as the present system gives the governor the power and authority to choose and appoint the DPS chief.

He said the commissioner serves at the will of the governor, serves as a Cabinet member of the governor, and essentially follows orders

from the governor.

Because the DPS commissioner is a political appointee and serves at the pleasure of the governor, Propst said it is common to see the commissioner attending political rallies and fundraisers, waving on the sides of the road at political gatherings in support of the governor, and even greeting the governor upon his arrival from off-island trips, and then carrying the governor's baggage to his vehicle as he deplanes.

Propst said that, as long as the commissioner is a political appointee, political interference will continue to exist at DPS.

Free webinars help Saipan businesses prepare their BOH grant applications

The Bank of Hawaii's I Kinometi Para I Kumunida't I Isla'ta Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant program—which is intended to promote new businesses and encourage existing small businesses to expand—is now accepting applications from Saipan small business owners.

The application for the grant is due on Friday, August 6. Applications are available by contacting either the CNMI SBDC, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Hawaii's Gualo Rai branch, or Gualo

Rai branch manager Rose Sumor at Rose.Sumor@boh.com or 237-2983.

For businesses that see additional assistance, the "How to Stand Out in Your Bank of Hawaii Business Grant Application" webinar will share grant qualifications, how to apply, and how to submit a stellar application. There are four identical seminars:

- Wednesday, Aug. 4: from 9am – 11am or 2pm – 4pm,
- Thursday, Aug. 5: from 10am – 12pm or 5:30pm – 7:30pm

These webinars will be conducted by Maxine Laszlo of Max Impacts: Maxine Laszlo Consulting, in partnership with the CNMI Small Business Development Center. All trainings are free of charge, thanks to sponsorship by the Northern Marianas College. RSVP is required at <https://tinyurl.com/2021CNMIGRANT>. For questions, call 285-7739.

Note this is not the mandatory SBDC "Smart Money Seminar" required with all grant submissions. The Smart Money Seminar is scheduled for Aug. 10 and Aug. 11. Reach out to the CNMI SBDC for more information. **(PR)**



DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
1st Floor, Building 1300, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a Public Hearing on the Consolidated Block Grant that DYS receives under the authority of the Social Services Block Grant – Title XX for the following:

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	August 10, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Kagman Community Center
Tinian	August 11, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	August 12, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Sinapalo Youth Center

Electronic copy of the FY2022 Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan draft may be viewed on the links below:

DYS Website: www.dys.gov.mp
DCCA Website: dcca.gov.mp
CNMI Governor's Website: www.gov.mp

For more information, or to retrieve a hard copy, you may contact Nina S. Nekaifes, DYS Federal Program Coordinator III at 237-1018 or via email: nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp or contact Vivian T. Sablan, DYS Administrator at 237-1000/1/2/3 or via email: vsablan@dys.gov.mp.

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-029

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SADOG TASI WWTP UPGRADE (S20-078)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-029, A&E Design Services for the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 13, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Grant funds podcast on surviving domestic violence

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council announced yesterday Community Grant recipient Jennifer Taman's upcoming project, "Domestic Violence and CNMI Culture," which will create a podcast series and workshop that examine how cultural upbringing is related to sexual and domestic violence.

Taman is the co-founder and project director of Women of Destiny, a non-profit organization that provides aftercare for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and people in recovery.

"I am a survivor myself," said Taman. "Domestic violence survivors have been silent for a long time and it's time for us to speak up. I want to be a voice for the voiceless."

The podcast, titled *Let's Speak Out CNMI*, will feature interviews with domestic violence survivors as well as advocates and experts on the topic.

"This podcast is about women who have survived a traumatic event in their life. We want to incorporate how cultural upbringing affected their decisions and made

them stay in an abusive relationship," Taman said. "It's also about healing. For me as a victim, I find it healing when I share my story. I hope that, as I interview these survivors, it can be a part of their healing as well."

The podcast will be published online through PineCast, aired on local radio stations, and shared with organizations such as Karidat Social Services, the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Women of Destiny for education and therapy purposes. Taman will also be hosting a domestic violence

educational workshop that uses the podcast as a way to inspire more dialogue and education about the topic. Collaborating with Taman on this project is Maisie Tenorio, Catherine Perry, and Women of Destiny.

This project is made possible in part by funding from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. (PR)

Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Community Grant Recipient and Women of Destiny co-founder Jen Taman.

NMHC



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NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will Board Committee Meetings on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Solar
 2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
 3. CUC Power Plants 2 (Rota)
- IV. New:
 1. Airport Regulations – Final Adoption
 2. Land Management Regulation – Final Adoption
 3. Concession Authority Grant – Tinian Advertising
 4. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.
 2. Tinian Shipping
 3. Echo Dock
 4. Saipan Globe
- IV. New:
 1. FPA Pacific Corporation
 2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business: None.
- IV. New:
 1. Contract Renewal - Comptroller
 2. Replacement and Advertisement Request- 3 positions (CPA Rota)
 - a. 2 - Ports Police/ARFF Trainees
 - b. 1 - Custodial/Maintenance 1
 3. Replacement and Advertisement Request- 3 positions (CPA Saipan)
 - a. 2 - ARFF Trainees
 - b. 1 - Receptionist/Secretary
 4. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 1. FY 2022 Budget – Airport & Seaport
- IV. New Business:
 1. FY 2022 Rates
 2. Supplemental Budget Request – Tinian Airport Tractor Mower
 3. Supplemental Budget Request – Supply and Installation of Floating Dock System (Rota Seaport)
 4. Supplemental Budget Request – SPN Commuter Terminal A&E Design – Amendment 1
 5. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves
Airport Facilities Chair

Ramon A. Tebuteb
Financial Affairs Chair

Pete P. Reyes
Seaport Facilities Chair

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Personnel Affairs Chair



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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Reimposing mask rules makes sense. But a better idea is to have stronger vaccine edicts

With the delta variant of the coronavirus proving to be the most infectious yet, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the state of California and cities, counties and other states have called on Americans to once again routinely wear masks indoors. With new infections more than quintupling over the past three months, it appears that both the CDC's May recommendation that mask edicts be dropped and Gov. Gavin Newsom's June decision to end most pandemic restrictions were premature. Yes, COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations are still far lower than what was seen in the first 11 months of this pandemic. But the U.S. is still in the middle of it.

Thing is, masks aren't our best defense against COVID-19. What's needed is to get shots in the arms of the 90 million Americans who are eligible for vaccines but who have not yet received them. What's needed is for the Food and Drug Administration to finally realize that its failure to give full approval to the three vaccines in wide use in the U.S.—which have been administered with enormous success to hundreds of millions of people worldwide—is emboldening anti-vaccination rhetoric when the FDA's reassurances would fuel many more vaccinations.

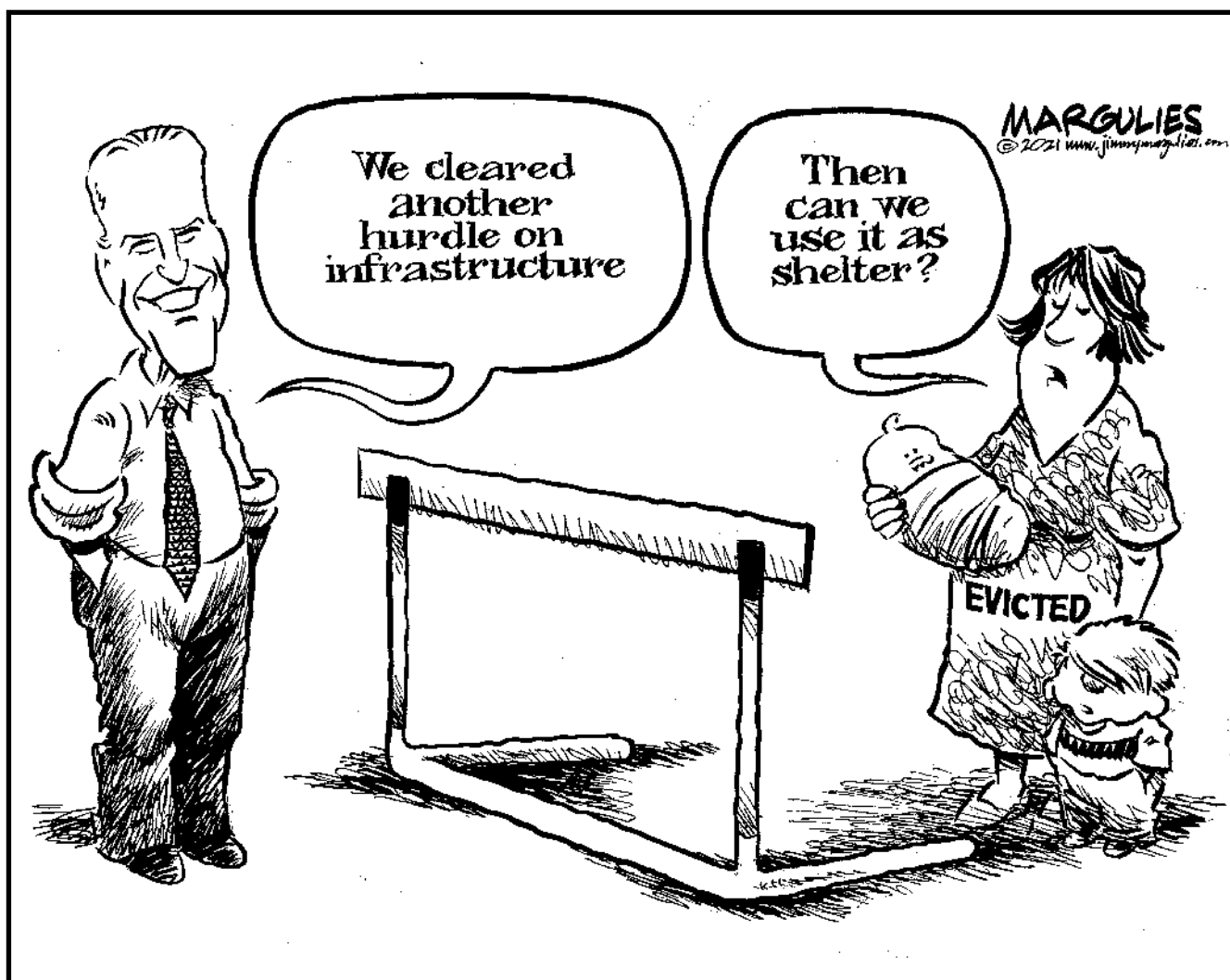
Refusing to wait, the University of California and California State University systems have now joined hundreds of other colleges—and a growing number of businesses—to require vaccines or frequent testing. Institutions from Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Opera to Facebook to ours—The San Diego Union-Tribune—are all requiring vaccinations for entrance. With every theater or restaurant that requires vaccinations, the dangerous idea that not getting the vaccine is an affirmation of personal freedom and liberty weakens. Instead, proving you got the vaccine is good for business and health.

In fact, requiring vaccines on public health grounds has a history that predates America's founding. Historian Ron Chernow's 2010 biography of George Washington noted that in 1777, the general ordered that every member of the Continental Army who had not yet had smallpox be inoculated for the disease. He correctly believed that such a step was crucial to winning the Revolutionary War.

And the notion that Americans have a constitutional right to reject vaccinations is simply not supported by history. In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decision of Cambridge, Massachusetts, health officials to fine individuals who did not get a smallpox vaccine \$5. Justices held that protecting public health was a reasonable use of state power.

Yes, the ruling noted that laws should not be arbitrary or oppressive, in a clear nod to constitutional requirements about individual rights. But it validated laws that have a "real or substantial relation" to their goal, and found pre-

See REIMPOSING on next page



American politics are not (yet) broken

As President Joe Biden moves toward another legislative victory—namely, the \$550 billion infrastructure bill—it's worth asking what its success says about American politics. Mostly it's good news, whether or not you agree with the policies of the Biden administration.

The most enduring truth is that the median voter theorem, as social scientists refer to it, continues to explain a lot of political outcomes. In an era supposedly marked by gridlock and polarization, a centrist infrastructure bill is on the verge of passage.

Expressed most simply, the median voter theorem suggests that politicians will try to court the voter in the center of the ideological distribution—not necessarily because they want to, but because they are forced to by political competition. In any case, the system as a whole tends to behave this way, even if any particular elected representative does not.

Former President Donald Trump deviated rather severely from voter preferences in some critical ways, most of all with his style and rhetoric. The result was that he lost the 2020 election. Still, even such an idiosyncratic politician as Trump reflects some aspects of the median voter theorem. For instance, unlike many Republicans who preceded him, Trump boldly stated he wasn't going to cut Medicare or Social Security. Those were popular positions, and they contributed to Trump's ascendancy.

As for Biden, the infrastructure bill has the support of a number of Republicans (the danger Biden faces comes from the left of his own party), and the bill consists mostly of easy-to-understand, non-radical elements: fixing roads and bridges, spreading broadband, beefing up Amtrak, and so on. The bill also goes out of its way to avoid raising taxes on most Americans.

More broadly, it is striking how many policies of the Biden administration reflect ideas or proposals from the Trump administration. Biden's "Buy America" plan could be a Trump administration protectionist initiative. The Trump administration spent \$2 trillion on coronavirus relief; the Biden administration proposed and spent \$1.9 trillion. Trump wanted to pull U.S. troops out of Afghanistan; Biden actually did. Biden has left many of Trump's anti-China policies, such as the tariffs, in place. Biden also has continued rapid deportation programs for immigrants.

All of these policies are broadly aimed at the center. It is no accident that Biden, even though his "honeymoon" period is ending, has remained broadly popular in the polls.

There are still areas in which Republicans and Democrats differ greatly, of course. On COVID-19, they have divergent attitudes and safety practices. Still, the Biden administration has not seriously considered either a nationwide vaccination mandate or

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.



governmental vaccine passports, as neither would be especially popular with voters.

Then there are cultural issues, where the median voter theorem most definitely does not hold. What seems to have happened is that Americans have picked one area in which they can let off steam and express their mutual mistrust—and in turn that has allowed a kind of consensus to form around many actual government policies. Perhaps what the median voter theorem misses is that individuals have a deeply irrational side and need to treat some political debates more like a mixed martial arts competition than as a forum for getting things done.

The median voter theorem tends to be unpopular in an increasingly left-leaning academic environment. It has a decidedly anti-utopian quality, as it insists that policy is not going to deviate too far from the views of the ordinary American. It implies that many projects of left-wing progressives are pipe dreams, at least until major shifts in public opinion set in. It dismisses the common progressive attitude that current voters would welcome major left-wing reforms and are only waiting for a heroic politician to stare down the special interest groups that oppose them.

To be clear, there is no presumption that the median voter actually wants the right thing. As an economist, I am particularly frustrated by how frequently American voters fail to appreciate the benefits of international trade and migration, or how they tend to believe that government programs financed by borrowing represent a free lunch. They also put disproportionate weight on low gasoline prices, to cite yet another example from a long list of mistaken views.

Still, as a practical matter, the median voter probably represents a kind of protection against the worst excesses and arrogances of the human spirit. Failed politicians do tend to get voted out of office. Crazy views, regardless of how popular they may be, tend to get sanded down by the political process.

The upshot, for the U.S. at least, is that the reality of American life is very different from the one that pundits regularly describe.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

He warned democracy was in peril. And that was before the Capitol riot

It's not as if Tom Mann is happy to say "I told you so."

After decades as a leading expert on Congress and our fragile American experiment in democracy, Mann shed his impartiality and scholarly distance and co-wrote a clanging alarm of a book that said government was headed seriously off the rails.

"It's Even Worse Than It Looks" didn't steer a middle course by blaming "both sides," or countenance the "well, what about" school of reductive reasoning—as in, "Well, what about Hillary's emails?"—which shrinks any difference between Democrat and Republican to the level of a schoolyard taunt.

The problem, Mann and co-author Norman Ornstein stated, was a Republican Party captive to its most unhinged elements.

"The GOP has become an insurgent outlier in American politics," the two wrote. "It is ideologically extreme; scornful of compromise; unmoved by conventional understanding of facts, evidence and science; and dismissive of the legitimacy of its political opposition. When one party moves this far from the mainstream, it makes it nearly impossible for the political system to deal constructively with the country's challenges."

That was back in 2012, when Donald Trump was hosting "The Apprentice" and the weightiest matters he publicly wrestled with were questions such as who designed the best launch party for Crystal Light Mocktails.

Nine years later—after a disastrously mishandled once-in-a-century pandemic, a failed presidential effort to overturn the 2020 election and a deadly insurrectionist raid on the U.S. Capitol that Trump helped incite—Mann suggests things are even worse than they seemed back then.

"We're on a precipice," Mann said. "We're actually potentially so close to losing our democracy."

The scholar sat grim-faced over his kale salad at a Berkeley bistro, and if those words—scholar, kale salad, Berkeley, bistro—read like a caricature of some out-of-touch liberal elitist, Mann notes he grew up scraping by in a Florida trailer home and took out loans to attend public college. So it's not as though he's

spent his entire life stroking his chin in some ivory tower.

His deconstructions of government and politics have long commanded respect from members of both major parties, as well as anyone trying to figure out the byzantine byways of Washington. Former GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich was among those who enthusiastically blurbed one of Mann's earlier books on Congress.

More to the point, Mann and Ornstein have proved prophetic. The Republican Party has only grown more obdurate since their 2012 work was published, more invested in conspiratorial thinking and more willing to undermine democratic values, such as the sanctity of free and fair elections.

Yes, Mann said, Democrats have their fringe elements. (Well, what about ...) But, Mann said, they haven't commandeered the party to the same extent as the 147 Republicans in the House—among them GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California—who refused to certify Biden's election, or the state lawmakers nationwide who've passed legislation making it harder to vote and allowing partisans to overturn elections they don't like.

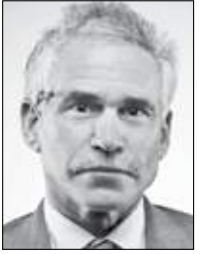
"We've always had extremist groups on the left as well as the right, but they've always been marginalized or co-opted to become more moderate," said Mann, 76, a senior fellow at Washington's Brookings Institution and a resident scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. "This is the first time an extreme set of forces like this has actually won the White House and tried to steal it a second time."

He leaned forward, elbows planted on the table before him, which wobbled as Mann made his point. His salad sat untouched.

The remedy, Mann said, begins with an utter repudiation of Trump and his authoritarian impulses, first in the 2022 midterm election and then in 2024, when the White House is again up for grabs. Only then, he said, will less extreme, more pragmatic elements of the GOP be positioned to rebuild the party atop its rubble and set the country on a healthier course. (A starting point might be some of those Republicans negotiating with the Biden administration to pass an infrastructure bill.)

By **MARK Z. BARABAK**

Los Angeles Times



Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, focusing on politics in California and the West.

America needs two strong governing parties, Mann said, to keep each other in check and hold each other accountable. "One-party rule is autocratic rule," Mann said.

He offered other, more drastic prescriptions aimed at sidelining the GOP's scorched-earth wing. He would abolish the Electoral College and choose the president based on the popular vote. He would make voting a mandatory requirement of citizenship, the way it is in Australia. He would do more to strengthen third parties, promoting cooperation and more political coalition building.

One step Mann supports but believes is unachievable right now is eliminating the Senate filibuster, which is perhaps the strongest weapon in the minority party's arsenal. Instead, he would change the requirement to end a filibuster from a supermajority of 60 senators to three-fifths of those present and voting, an easier threshold. Alternatively, he would require 41 votes to keep a filibuster going, not 60 votes to end it, placing the burden on the minority to continue the obstructionist tactic.

The point, Mann said, is allowing the party that gets the most votes to actually govern, pass laws and then be held accountable at the ballot box. Most voters, he said, "want [government] to work well for everyone, are not attracted to conspiracy theories and don't want an autocrat, demagogue or fascist or whatever you call it running things."

For all his gloom, Mann was not entirely cheerless. He took solace in the fact Trump lost his reelection bid—he really did—and was thwarted from pursuing an even more egregiously subversive second-term agenda. Had Trump won, "we'd have passed Hungary pretty quickly in moving to an autocratic world and a dangerous world," Mann said. "So it could be worse."

He paused, then exclaimed: "How about that! It could be worse!"

He laughed, long and hard.

Want to reduce overdose rates? Treat poverty first

By **ALEXANDRA S. WIMBERLY** and **SHAWNA MURRAY-BROWNE**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Overdose rates are higher in areas where people live in poverty and even higher among people of color living in poverty. In the last decade in Maryland, the proportion of opioid-overdose deaths involving Black people has continually risen, while the proportion involving white people has declined, mirroring nationwide trends. This past year, the disparity has worsened.

Drug-related deaths for Black Americans have persistently climbed. Within Maryland, Black people over 55 had more opioid-overdose deaths in 2020 than any other demographic, with 56.6% more deaths than white people over 55. It is perhaps no coincidence that nationally, Black people over 55 were 26% more likely than white people to lose their jobs between April and October of last year, as the pandemic swept the globe. COVID-19 has exacerbated existing societal conditions that make it next to impossible for people experiencing poverty to make a living. This means that for people with low incomes and a substance use disorder, they are more likely to continue to use, to use in unsafe circumstances and to die.

Why are poverty and marginalization related to worse substance use outcomes? In a nutshell, restricted access to basic needs puts tremendous stress on a person, and chronic and severe stress are major factors in developing substance use disorders. With financial hardship comes other stressors, like housing instability, environmental toxin exposure and less health care ac-

cess. This is an even greater hardship for people of color, who endure systemic racism and may live in areas of concentrated disinvestment (high poverty, more policing, worse public services, less access to quality substance use treatment).

If we know that poverty increases overdose likelihood, isn't it obvious that financial stability should be a treatment priority? This requires a paradigm shift in substance use treatment that would interrupt the structural problems feeding the poverty cycle. There is promising research around guaranteed income and cash transfer programs that demonstrate positive mental health and income outcomes. And while there is pushback that money given to people experiencing poverty would be spent on alcohol and drugs, there is data that show otherwise.

Recently, a guaranteed income program in Stockton, California, gave \$500 a month to people at or below the median income and found that people spent less than 1% of their money on tobacco and alcohol. In Baltimore, Mayor Brandon Scott joined Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, committing to implementing a guaranteed income pilot. And Maryland's nonprofit Job Opportunities Task Force is dedicated to creating meaningful employment for low-wage workers. While workforce programs developed by and for people with substance use disorders are lacking, let these initiatives inspire us as we imagine innovation in this area.

When exploring solutions for low-income populations and its relationship to opioid overdose we must also address racial inequity. Black people are more than twice as likely as whites to not have access to substance use or mental health treatment. Black people are also prescribed buprenorphine, an opioid medi-

cation with less stigma and more convenience than methadone, less than whites. At the same time, Black people are criminalized and dehumanized for drug use at greater rates than whites. By continuing to apply race-neutral programs via race-neutral policies we uphold systems of white supremacy in substance use treatment. We need culturally sensitive programs that purposely honor the humanity of Black people, and we should direct resources to Black-led service organizations that have a track-record of success. There are promising examples of faith-based treatments specifically for Black people with substance use disorders. Policy changes that target the decriminalization of drug use would interrupt harm that Black people face and benefit all society by removing the burden of a criminal justice stamp.

Substance use disorder affects us all, no matter your race, income or education level. As a society, we must now ensure that the recovery process is also "equal opportunity" so that each person with a substance use disorder has an equal chance for continued life.

People with substance use disorders are human beings who are innately deserving of food and shelter. Once we honor the humanity of this population in our community by addressing basic needs, we diminish stressors that may lead to drug use in the first place.

Alexandra S. Wimberly is an assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Shawna Murray-Browne is a licensed clinical social worker and community healer with Kindred Wellness LLC. This was written for the Baltimore Sun.

REIMPOSING

From Page 10

venting the spread of a deadly disease clearly qualified. With

more than 600,000 dead and nearly 35 million infected in the U.S., mandating vaccines meets this standard.

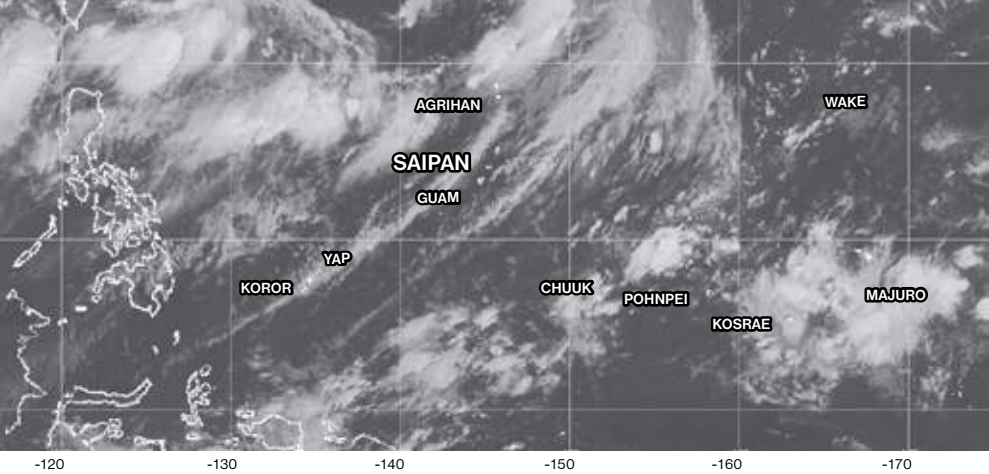
Last Thursday, President Joe Biden asked local and state governments to use the emergency federal funds they had

been provided to pay \$100 to get the unvaccinated inoculated. Yet carrots only go so far. All institutions should start to require vaccinations.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers in the morning, then mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 12:08 PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Quiet conditions are seen across the Marianas as last night’s surge of showers and thunderstorms have continued to push well off to the northeast. Meanwhile, to the west, another line of showers and thunderstorms is seen slowly spreading eastward as the overall flow within the convection heads northeastward. Surface winds are slowly turning southward as a ridge nudges its way in from the east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Sunny	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:44 AM	4:10 PM	-
Friday	3:35 AM	5:02 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:53 PM	-
Sunday	5:24 AM	6:41 PM	-
Monday	6:20 AM	7:27 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 52°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°	
Honolulu	Windy	87° / 76°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
New York	Cloudy	80° / 70°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	82° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°	
Tokyo	Rain	82° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	80° / 72°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:06 AM	High Tide	1.78	
11:46 AM	Low Tide	0.12	
7:15 PM	High Tide	1.82	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

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NMHC awards grant to create animation of Chamorro oral stories

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council announced yesterday Jack Doyle's upcoming Community Grant Project called "Legends of Rota," an animated representation of stories told by Chamorro elders in the Chamorro language.

Doyle, as project director, will be interviewing Rota elders for oral stories and working with Indigenous Affairs Office program manager Crispin Ogo to translate and record the story narrations in Chamorro. The final product will feature Ogo's narration and accompanying animations created by Doyle.

"While furthering my own knowledge, this project will share Chamorro culture and language in a digital format that is accessible for those who want to learn," said Doyle. "My goal is to create animations that can teach Chamorro culture and language to children in an interesting way, and to make these animations available online for use by teachers and the Humanities Council."

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada has expressed support for this project. "I believe that this grant would result in an invaluable resource for the [Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies] teachers and students as well as the CNMI community and diaspora as a whole," Ada said.

BECQ eyes Wing Beach for cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be continuing its beautification efforts this Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, at Wing Beach on Saipan, from 8am to 10am.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Wing Beach area at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10:30am.

"Come and join BECQ's monthly beach cleanup and 'Pick It Up!' Let us work together for the beauty of our islands, health of our coral reefs, and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy safely. Let's control the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask to the cleanup," said BECQ in a press statement yesterday.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ at 664-8500/1. (PR)

"It is paramount that we as a community do everything in our power to promote and perpetuate local culture, and using unique, creative, and entertaining tools like animation to attract attention and inspire interest among our youth could be a major step forward."

Jonas Barcinas, the CCLHS program director, has expressed enthusiasm for this project, saying, "I believe that this project will open

doors to connect our youths to their history in the preservation and perpetuation of their language and cultural heritage."

The oral stories will be told by Matias Taisacan, Richard Manglonia, Thomas Mendiola, Sixto Taimano, and Ogo (in addition to his role as translator and narrator).

This project is made possible in part by funding from the Northern Marianas Hu-

manities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The council supports high quality public humanities programming for the people of the Marianas in accordance with the Council's Gi Hiyong i Mamati—Mwirilól Woosch Strategic Master Plan. (PR)

Sample images from Jack Doyle's animation concept. NMHC



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
2ND Floor Annex Bldg.,
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-4500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cpa.gov Website: www.cports.com

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- III. CORRESPONDENCES**
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Financial Affairs Committee
 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:**
 1. Tinian Shipping
 2. Echo Dock
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:**
 1. FPA Pacific Corporation
 2. Airport Regulations – Final Adoption
 3. Land Management Regulations – Final Adoption
 4. Concession Authority Grant – Tinian Advertising
 5. FY 2022 Rates
 6. FY 2022 Budget – Airport & Seaport
 7. Supplemental Budget Request – Tinian Airport Tractor Mower
 8. Supplemental Budget Request – Rota Seaport Floating Dock System
 9. Supplemental Budget Request – SPN Commuter Terminal A&E Design – Amendment 1
 10. Contract Renewal – Comptroller
 11. Replacement and Advertisement Request – 3 positions (CPA Rota)
 - a. 2 - Ports Police/ARFF Trainee
 - b. 1 - Custodial-Maintenance 1
 12. Replacement and Advertisement Request – 3 position (CPA Saipan)
 - a. 2 - positions ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
 - b. 1 - position Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
 13. Saipan Globe
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@cpa.gov. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman,
Board of Directors

August 2, 2021



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-029

SUBMISSION DATE: August 24, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Development and Implementation of a Pyrolysis Pilot on the island of Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


The project package will be available on or after **July 22, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **August 10, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 17, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, or **Blas T. Mafnas Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division Lower base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) MVA-RFP-21-2030

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Global Branding Services

Submission /Closing Date: October 06, 2021 Time: 3:00PM ChST

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after July 20, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **“MVA-RFP-21-2030 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY GLOBAL BRANDING SERVICES”**.

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before October 06, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time on September 20, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374
Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO. RFP21-GOV-147

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Supply, Delivery, and Installation of a Generator Set and Renovation of the Generator House for the Office on Aging in Saipan”

The project package will be available beginning **Thursday, July 29, 2021** at the Hazard Mitigation Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Saipan Office on Aging Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply for this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/S/ David DLG Atalig
Secretary of Finance



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Awewe, House of Justice I.P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 236-9804 | Email: procurement@nmijudiciary.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RFP-2021-JUD-6

“RESTORATION OF JUDICIARY PUBLIC AND STAFF RESTROOMS – GUMA' HUSTISIA”

SUBMISSION DATE: August 27, 2021 (ChST)
SUBMIT TO: Cashier's Window, Door #5, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia AND via E-mail to procurement@nmijudiciary.com 1 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch (“Judiciary”) is accepting proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to renovate the public and staff restrooms of the Guma' Hustisia on Saipan.

This solicitation is made pursuant to NMI Judiciary Rules of Procurement Rule 13 and is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”).

The Request for Proposal No. RFP-2021-JUD-6 and supporting documents are available at the Cashier's Window, Door #5, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, Chamorro Standard Time (“ChST”), excluding observed holidays, upon registration completion. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the proposal package will be assessed. Payment must be made at the Cashier's Window, Door #5, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan. Please make payments payable to the CNMI Treasury upon registration and proposal package retrieval. The Package may also be retrieved online at www.nmijudiciary.com.

The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the NMI Judiciary Rules of Procurement Rule 69 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/S/ MARTHA B. MENDIOLA
Procurement Officer

Environment

Be an Eco Helper!

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Do you want to make a difference in the community? Sign up as an Eco Helper!

American Memorial Park's newly launched Eco Helper program offers a chance for the island's nature and park lovers to congregate and volunteer, to beautify the park and its surroundings, for more people to enjoy.

» American Memorial Park launches environmental stewardship program

Started in June, the purpose of the program is to build a family of environmental stewards who are interested in volunteering and combining their efforts for a better park and

environment.

According to AMP community volunteer ambassador Shannon T. Sasamoto, she wanted to create a space where people feel empowered to create a difference in the community, where insights are heard, and where connections are strengthened as everyone engages through eco-projects.

"Volunteering for the environment is so important since everywhere you go within the islands, it is bound to hold so much historical significance. When we care for our envi-

ronment, we honor the experiences of our elders and the environment given to us by our ancestors," Sasamoto said. "I want to be able to demonstrate the tie between the environment and history with the help of the American Memorial Park team."

While AMP already has projects and volunteering events for preservation and restoration, Eco Helpers are specifically focused on the beautification of memorial and recreational areas in the park, in honor of the CNMI's



Volunteers from the Marianas High School and Grace Christian Academy planted a total of 20 crotons along the American Memorial Park's amphitheater wall last June. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

history and community.

"We have monthly cleanups, some being hosted at Micro Beach since it is one of the most used and visited recreational areas at the park and holds so much historical significance for our people," she said. "Volunteers are able to receive awards and incentives when they contribute a certain amount of hours to volunteering events, though seeing the difference they have made is just as rewarding."

Anyone can join and be an Eco Helper. Sasamoto said that the park is open to working with different people of different ages and backgrounds who are interested in contributing to the community through the program.

"The park would love to engage more with our community and empower members to create a difference within our environment. We have

volunteer opportunities every month and will be sending out monthly newsletters to notify members. People of all ages are encouraged to come together to demonstrate that volunteerism is the voice of the community put into action."

This month, the Eco Helpers will be doing a cleanup at Smiling Cove on Aug. 6 (Friday), an amphitheater beautification project on Aug. 21 (Saturday), and a tree planting event on Aug. 28 (Saturday).

To those who want to volunteer and become Eco Helpers, register at: <https://forms.gle/C48s5w1aUEbr1zBr8>. All volunteers are also required to sign a volunteer form prior to an activity, which must be renewed after a year to ensure their safety.

For more information on the Eco Helper program, contact Sasamoto at amme.shannon@gmail.com.

Melting ice imperils 98% of Emperor penguin colonies

WASHINGTON (AP)—With climate change threatening the sea ice habitat of Emperor penguins, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday announced a proposal to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"The lifecycle of Emperor penguins is tied to having stable sea ice, which they need to breed, to feed and to molt," said Stephanie Jenouvrier, a penguin ecologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Research published Tuesday in the journal *Global Change Biology* found that by 2100, 98% of Emperor penguin colonies may be pushed to the brink of extinction, if no changes are made to current rates of carbon emissions and climate change.

Around 70% of colonies will be in danger sooner, by 2050.

The new study looked at

overall warming trends and the increasing likelihood of extreme weather fluctuations due to global warming. And it noted that extremely low levels of sea ice in 2016 led to a massive breeding failure of an Emperor penguin colony in Antarctica's Halley Bay.

That year, seasonal sea ice broke up before penguin chicks had time to develop waterproof adult feathers, and about 10,000 baby birds drowned, Jenouvrier said. The colony did not recover afterward.

Emperor penguins breed exclusively in Antarctica during winter. They endure temperatures of minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees Celsius) and wind speeds approaching 90 miles (144 kilometers) per hour by huddling together in groups of several thousand birds. But they can't survive without sufficient sea ice.

Calling all
GOLFERERS!



Saturday,
10.2.21

**LAOLAO BAY
GOLF & RESORT**

Proceeds to benefit Make-A-Wish CNMI.
Registration forms will be available August 1, 2021.

For inquiries, please call 670-285-GOLF
or email info@marianaclassic.com.



Life & Style

Garth Brooks reassessing stadium tour because of COVID surge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Garth Brooks said he will be reassessing whether to continue his stadium tour because of the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Brooks said he is still scheduled to play the next two shows scheduled in Kansas City and Lincoln, Nebraska, but will not put tickets on sale for the next planned stop, Seattle in September.

Brooks was already scheduled to take a three-week break after the Aug. 14 show in Nebraska and will take that time to assess what to do about the remainder of the dates in 2021. He is also scheduled to play Cincinnati; Charlotte, North Carolina; Baltimore and Boston.

"It breaks my heart to see city after city go on sale and then have to ask those sweet people and the venues to re-schedule," Brooks said in a statement. "We have a three week window coming up where we, as a group, will assess the remainder of the stadium tour this year. It's humbling to see people put this much faith in you as an artist, and it kills me to think I am letting them down."

Brooks, one of the biggest selling entertainers in music, restarted touring in July and regularly performs in front of 60,000-70,000 people per stadium. Many of his shows sell out well in advance.

Reese Witherspoon sells Hello Sunshine, joins new company

It's a perfect day for Reese Witherspoon as the actress and producer is selling the media company she founded to a newly formed company backed by private equity firm Blackstone Group.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed but The Wall Street Journal reported

that the deal was worth about \$900 million.

Witherspoon, known for her roles in films such as "Legally Blonde" and "Walk the Line," created Hello Sunshine in 2016. She will continue to oversee its day-to-day operations along with members of Hello Sunshine's existing senior management

team, including CEO Sarah Harden. Witherspoon and Harden will also serve as board members for the new media company run by entertainment executives Kevin Mayer and Tom Staggs.

Hello Sunshine, which focuses on putting women at the center of its stories, creates scripted and unscripted

television, feature films, animated series, podcasts, audio storytelling, and digital series—including "Big Little Lies," "The Morning Show," and "Little Fires Everywhere." It is also houses Reese's Book Club, with many of the club's picks turned into movies or limited series. **(AP)**



Witherspoon



In this April 3, 2012 file photo, visitors check the passenger list against their boarding pass to see if they were a survivor or casualty of the sinking of the ship at the Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. **AP**

Wall of ice collapses at Titanic Museum in Tennessee, 3 hurt

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (AP)—A wall of ice at the Titanic Museum Attraction in Tennessee collapsed and injured three guests, the museum's owners said.

Those harmed were taken to the hospital with unspecified injuries, Mary Kellogg Joslyn and John Joslyn wrote on the attraction's Facebook page.

"Needless to say, we never would have expected an incident like this to occur as the safety of our guests and crew members are always top of

mind," the owners said.

The ship-shaped museum closed after the collapse but reopened for those with tickets on Tuesday, according to a post. The owners said the affected area has been blocked off, and they estimate it will take at least four weeks for the iceberg wall to be rebuilt.

The Pigeon Forge Police Department said in a statement that the collapse appears to be accidental, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported. Cedar Bay Entertainment opened the

attraction in 2010. The company has another Titanic museum in Branson, Missouri.

Guests receive boarding passes containing the names of actual passengers or crew members who were aboard the British passenger liner that sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg.

Visitors can see more than 400 Titanic artifacts, shovel "coal" in the boiler room and feel 28-degree water through self-guided tours, according to the attraction's website.

Lawyer: R. Kelly gained weight, lost money ahead of trial

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B star R. Kelly gained weight and lost money while he awaits a sex-trafficking trial that starts in earnest next week, his lawyers said Tuesday at a court hearing.

The revelations came as U.S. District Judge Ann M. Donnelly in New York made a series of rulings to narrow down what evidence can be shown to jurors. She mostly ruled for prosecutors but said some evidence will be excluded because it is too similar to other parts of the case aimed at showing Kelly engaged in racketeering in pursuit of women and girls he could abuse.

The Grammy-winning, multiplatinum-selling R&B singer is accused of leading an enterprise of managers, bodyguards and other employees who helped him recruit women and girls for sex, sometimes at concerts and other venues. He has pleaded not guilty to racketeering, bribery, coercion, enticement and sex trafficking.

Devereaux Cannick, one of his lawyers, told the judge that Kelly, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, needs to be measured

for new clothing because he's gained so much weight in jail.

And he asked that court transcripts be provided at no cost because Kelly has been unable to work for two years.

"His funds are depleted," Cannick said of a client who left the courtroom after the hearing with his hands cuffed.

"It's going to be a long trial," Donnelly said after prosecutors outlined their plans to call numerous witnesses, including women who say they were sexually abused, physically abused and coerced to do things for Kelly's pleasure.

The judge said the witnesses who allege abuse can testify with only their first name given to jurors, who will sit in the gallery rather than the jury box because of a reconfigured courtroom tied to coronavirus restrictions.

Donnelly also said she will generally not allow questions aimed at revealing if any of the women have had mental health treatment. She said she will not allow the jurors to be told that one witness had worked as an exotic dancer years after she said she was abused.

Woman directs anger at parents after diagnosis

DEAR ABBY: I'm the mother of an 8-year-old with autism. A few months ago, I was ALSO diagnosed with autism. While I viewed this news for the most part in a rather positive light, I also have some mixed feelings.

The good: This diagnosis finally explains everything about the way I've behaved my entire life. The not-so-good: I feel betrayed to an extent by my parents for allowing so many doctors to tell me I had disorders and illnesses I never had (per the person who diagnosed me with autism) and for letting me be pumped full of so many medications from childhood all the way through college. I feel my parents caused me emotional AND physical harm (especially physical because of all those meds).

While I'm glad to know the truth about why I'm the way I am, I can't help but be furious with them for allowing something that may have caused me irreparable damage. How can I deal with this now?

ON THE SPECTRUM IN TEXAS

DEAR ON THE SPECTRUM: Your parents believed the (many) "experts" they consulted. The doctors misdiagnosed you. That is regrettable, but now you know what you are dealing with, it's time to concentrate on your future instead of the past. If your current physician can't help you

with this, ask to be referred to someone who can help you to dissipate your anger. It would be far more therapeutic for you than blaming your parents at this late date.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who enjoys getting her family together with mine. We used to take turns doing dinners at each other's houses. However, she, her kids and her husband are extremely picky eaters. They don't all like the same things, so I'm usually cooking three meals when they come over.

The more I've gotten to know them, the more I realize our values and opinions on certain major issues are very, very different. I no longer enjoy their company at all and don't feel comfortable with my young children hearing some of the conversations around these issues. I feel miserable leading up to every get-together, and so does my husband. However, she's clingy! I have canceled the last three times we were supposed to get together, and she doesn't get the message. How can I unfriend her without crushing her? I honestly don't want to hurt her, but I am fried!

SO OVER IT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SO OVER IT: Because this woman is unable to intuit that the atmosphere has changed, you will have to explain it to her. Start by telling her that preparing three

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



separate meals to cater to her family's tastes has become too much for you. If necessary, follow it up with the fact that you no longer want your children exposed to the dinner conversation, which prohibits you from having them over. Those are valid reasons, and as long as you don't mention that the thought of seeing her and her husband makes you and your husband miserable, she shouldn't be "crushed." Do not, however, expect her to take the news easily.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Thompson-Herah speeds to 2nd Olympic sprint sweep



TOKYO (AP)—It was billed as a star-studded race that anyone could win.

So long as that person's name was Elaine.

Elaine Thompson-Herah blew away a much-decorated field in the 200 meters Tuesday night. The latest sprint star from Usain Bolt's island country of Jamaica completed her second straight Olympic sprint sweep in 21.53 seconds, the second-fastest time in history.

"It means a lot to me to be in that history, to be in that work-hard book," said Thompson-Herah, who spent much of 2021 ailing with an Achilles injury and didn't reach top form until she got to Japan.

It marked the second time in four nights that Thompson-Herah has won a sprint and recorded a time that fell short of only the late Florence Griffith Joyner's hallowed, 33-year-old world records. The 200 record is 21.34.

In the 100 meters, Thompson-Herah started pointing at the clock a few steps before the finish line and finished in 10.61, which was good for the Olympic record but not Flo Jo's overall mark of 10.49.

In the 200, Thompson-Herah ran hard all the way through and stuck her tongue out as she pushed her chest forward at the line. No questions this time about what would've happened if she'd left it all on the track.

Both finishes, of course, equaled gold medals, and now Thompson-Herah will have at least four when she gets back to Jamaica. There's a chance for a fifth if she competes in the women's 4x100-meter relay this weekend.

"By the Olympic finish, I'll



Elaine Thompson-Herah, of Jamaica, wins the final of the women's 200-meters at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Tokyo.

probably see what I've done," said the 29-year-old, who grew up in Banana Ground on the southern side of the island. "At this moment, I'm just a normal girl."

She topped surprise second-place finisher Christine Mboma of Namibia by .48, while American Gabby Thomas took bronze.

This was a much-accomplished field of finalists, defined as much by who didn't finish on the podium as who did.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who beat Thompson-Herah at both distances in Jamaica's national championships, finished fourth to barely miss out on her eighth Olympic medal.

Shaune Miller-Uibo, who focused on the 200 after winning gold at 400 meters in Rio, came in last after pulling up with a twinge in her hamstring.

Thomas, the neurobiology grad from Harvard, ran a 21.61 at Olympic trials that

staked her claim, however briefly, as the second-fastest woman in history. It completely realigned her thoughts about what was possible in Tokyo. She won the bronze by .07 seconds.

"It feels amazing because I really worked for that one," Thomas said. "I fought tooth and nail those last 30 meters."

While Thompson-Herah is drawing comparisons to Bolt, she joins yet another Jamaican, Veronica Campbell-Brown, along with Barbel Wöckel of the former East Germany as the third back-to-back champion in the 200.

If Thompson-Herah's win was no surprise, then Mboma's second-place finish was a stunner that figures to bring one of sports' thorniest issues back to the fore.

Mboma moved to the 200 because she wasn't allowed in the 400, which is her favorite event. Tests ordered by World Athletics found she and her

teammate, sixth-place finisher Beatrice Maslingi, had high natural testosterone, which meant they fell under the same regulations that have sidelined two-time Olympic champion Caster Semenya of South Africa in the 800 meters.

In the final, Mboma broke the under-20 world record for the third time in a week, and looked stunned when she crossed the finish line.

"I came here for the experience," she said. "Now I did better."

Another contender was the Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou. She opened the sprints last week with a head-turning 10.78 in the 100-meter heats—the first sign that Tokyo could be a very fast track.

It is, especially when Thompson-Herah is on it.

But she's not the only one.

Her victory came several hours after Norway's Karsten Warholm obliterated his world record by .76 sec-

onds, finishing the 400-meter hurdles in 45.94.

In pole vault, Sweden's Armand Duplantis had the win wrapped up, but hadn't missed, so he got three chances at the world record of 6.19 meters. He couldn't clear it, and so made due with a gold medal and a jump of 6.02.

The women's long jump title went to Malaika Mihambo, who jumped 7 meters flat on her last try to surpass America's Brittney Reese.

That meant the U.S. had to wait for its second gold medal of the meet, and it was captured by Athing Mu in the 800 meters. In her preliminary heat, the track announcer butchered her name. She'll have to brush up for Mu's medal ceremony Wednesday. (It's pronounced "uh-THING moh").

Not heading to the podium is Gwen Berry. The outspoken American hammer thrower finished 11th in the final that went to Anita Włodarczyk of Poland, who took gold for the third straight Olympics.

While Berry said goodbye, Allyson Felix finally said hello to the Olympic track. She easily won her 400-meter heat on the first step to what could be a women's record—10 Olympic medals.

American Noah Lyles also said hi, but it wasn't all great.

After building a comfortable lead in the 200-meter semifinals, he put things on cruise control with about 15 meters left, only to be stunned to see Canada's Aaron Brown and Liberia's Joseph Fahnbulleh busting it to the line to edge him out in a photo finish.

Lyles had to wait a while to find out if he would earn one of two wild-card spots in the

final. His run of 19.99 seconds was fast enough, and he insisted nothing was amiss.

"No. I went to plan," Lyles said.

There will be no cruise control when he lines up Wednesday night in a field that will include Andre DeGrasse and 17-year-old American Erryon Knighton, who played to the cameras and ran his hands across his nametag when he qualified.

The world might get to know him soon.

As for the women's champ at 200 meters—she no longer needs an introduction.

"It means a lot to me because I've been through a lot," Thompson-Herah said. "Even though I don't have to tell my story, this tells my story."



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS MEDAL COUNT

	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	32	21	16	69
United States	25	29	22	76
Japan	20	7	12	39
Australia	15	4	16	35
ROC	13	21	18	52
Britain	13	18	15	46
Germany	8	8	14	30
France	6	10	8	24
Netherlands	6	8	8	22
South Korea	6	4	9	19
New Zealand	6	4	5	15
Italy	5	9	15	29
Cuba	5	3	4	12
Brazil	4	3	8	15
Hungary	4	4	3	11
Czech Republic	4	3	1	8
Canada	3	4	7	14
Switzerland	3	4	5	12
Croatia	3	3	2	8
Taiwan	2	4	5	11
Sweden	2	4	0	6
Poland	2	2	2	6
Denmark	2	1	3	6
Jamaica	2	1	2	5
Norway	2	1	1	4
Slovenia	2	1	1	4
Ecuador	2	1	0	3
Greece	2	0	1	3
Uzbekistan	2	0	1	3
Kosovo	2	0	0	2
Qatar	2	0	0	2
Spain	1	4	5	10
Georgia	1	4	1	6
Turkey	1	0	5	6
Austria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Serbia	1	1	3	5
Romania	1	3	0	4
Venezuela	1	3	0	4
Hong Kong	1	2	0	3
Slovakia	1	2	0	3
South Africa	1	2	0	3
Belgium	1	1	1	3
Ethiopia	1	1	1	3
Ireland	1	0	2	3
Israel	1	0	2	3
Philippines	1	1	0	2
Tunisia	1	1	0	2
Belarus	1	0	1	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Fiji	1	0	1	2
Iran	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Bermuda	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	6	7
Kazakhstan	0	0	4	4
Armenia	0	2	1	3
Colombia	0	2	1	3
Dominican Republic	0	2	1	3
India	0	1	2	3
Mongolia	0	1	2	3
Portugal	0	1	2	3
Azerbaijan	0	0	3	3
Mexico	0	0	3	3
Kenya	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Nigeria	0	1	1	2
San Marino	0	1	1	2
Uganda	0	1	1	2
Egypt	0	0	2	2
Bulgaria	0	1	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Macedonia	0	1	0	1
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Argentina	0	0	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Finland	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Malaysia	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Short-handed US advances to women's volleyball semifinals

TOKYO (AP)—Five years after their quest for a first Olympic gold medal was denied in the semifinals, the United States women's volleyball team has returned to that stage after a relatively easy quarterfinal win.

The short-handed Americans overcame the absence of two starters to beat the Dominican Republic 25-11, 25-20, 25-19 on Wednesday and advance to the semifinals.

The U.S. will play the winner of the Serbia-Italy match on Friday for a spot in the gold medal game.

This marks the sixth time in the past eight Olympics that the Americans have made it this far in the tournament but are still seeking their first gold in the sport. They have gotten a medal the last three Olympics, getting silver in 2008 and '12 and bronze five years ago

in Rio de Janeiro.

"This program has had great success over the years," U.S. coach Karch Kiraly said. "But we haven't stood at the top of the podium yet. So our goal, our objective is always to try to do something that's never been done before. But the opponent has a lot of say over how that works out. ... There are great teams here who have the same objective. But we're going to keep hurling ourselves at that door and try to break it down."

That five-set loss to Serbia in 2016 after star middle blocker Foluke Akinradewo Gunderson left following the first set with a knee injury has served as fuel ever since and Kiraly's crew is ready to try to avenge it.

The U.S. came into the quarterfinals short-handed with starters Jordyn Poulter and Jordan Thompson both sidelined

by right ankle injuries. But both players have surprised Kiraly with how quickly they are recovering and could have played in an emergency.

"We knew that we had them available to play," Kiraly said. "But we also knew if we could play without them, it's nice to give them a couple of extra days to be confident in their ankle, to jump more at the net tomorrow in training and things like that."

They weren't missed against the Dominicans with fill-ins Micha Hancock and Annie Drews setting the tone early. Hancock's set led to a spike by Drews on the first point of the match and Hancock ended a lopsided first set with an ace.

The second set was a bit tougher with the Dominican Republic fighting off four set points before Drews ended it again with an attack point.

Drew finished with a game-high 21 points.

"I told them when Jordan Poulter got hurt that out of the match against Italy, the great teams adapt and compensate and adjust," Kiraly said. "We've been doing a really nice job of that."

Hancock and Drews are part of a group of several first-time Olympians like Thompson, Poulter, outside hitter Michelle Bartsch-Hackley and libero Justine Wong-Orantes that have had stellar tournaments so far.

The mix of youth with experience in three-time Olympians like Akinradewo Gunderson and captain Jordan Larson has been a good formula for the U.S.

"They're playing like it's any other tournament," Akinradewo Gunderson said about her inexperienced teammates. "They're

playing with a lot of confidence and fearlessness. That is truly inspiring for me to see them just get after it. It's easy maybe in big moments to shrink. I think everyone is being even bigger in the moment."

The Dominicans made it to the quarterfinals in their third Olympic trip ever. They also lost to the U.S. in the quarters in London in 2012 and failed to make it out of pool play at the 2004 Athens Games.

South Korea outlasted Turkey in five sets earlier Wednesday to make it into the other semifinal against the winner of the quarterfinal between the Russian team and Brazil.

The South Koreans are seeking their second medal ever in the sport, having won bronze at the 1976 Montreal Games. The only other times they made it to the semifinals came in 2012 and 1972.

Astros weather raucous crowd, blank Dodgers 3-0



LOS AN-
GELES

(AP)—Lance McCullers Jr. threw 6 2/3 shutout innings and the Houston Astros withstood the raucous, heckling fans at Dodger Stadium to blank Los Angeles 3-0 Tuesday night.

The crowd of 52,692—the largest in the majors this season—had waited a long time to let José Altuve, Carlos Correa and the Astros know just how they felt about possibly being cheated out of a 2017 World Series title.

Michael Brantley's RBI double in the fourth inning gave Houston a 1-0 lead before Yordan Alvarez's two-run homer over the wall in right center off Victor González provided some much-needed insurance.

McCullers (9-2)—who started that Game 7 in 2017—struck out nine and allowed four hits and with three walks. Ryne Stanek retired the side in order in the ninth for his second save.

Walker Buehler (11-2) threw a career-high 115 pitches in six innings. He was charged with one run on five hits with five strikeouts and three walks.

Mariners 4, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Yusei Kikuchi went six effective innings, Abraham Toro and Jarred Kelenic homered, and Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

Kikuchi (7-6) allowed two runs and six hits. The lefty had gone 0-3 in his previous four starts.

Diego Castillo, the third Mariners reliever, worked the ninth to get his first Seattle save and 15th overall. The right-hander was acquired from Tampa Bay on Thursday.

Seattle has won the first two games of the three-game series and is 6-0 overall against the defending AL champion Rays this season.

Randy Arozarena homered for the Rays. Luis Patiño (2-3) took the loss.

Yankees 13, Orioles 1

In New York, Luis Gil pitched six scoreless innings in his major league debut, Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in four runs, and New York routed Baltimore.

Gil (1-0) started in place of All-Star ace Gerrit Cole, who was put on the COVID-19 injured list before the game after testing positive for the virus Monday. The 23-year-old right-hander allowed just four singles. He struck out six and walked only one.

Gleyber Torres hit an RBI double in the second off Alexander Wells (1-2). Aaron Judge added his 22nd homer in the eighth.



Houston Astros' Yordan Alvarez is congratulated for his two-run home run by teammates in the dugout during the eighth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Los Angeles. AP

Marlins 5, Mets 4

In Miami, newly acquired Alex Jackson hit his first career home run, Nick Neidert earned his first big league win and Miami beat NL East-leading New York.

Isan Díaz also homered, Bryan De La Cruz had three hits and Lewis Brinson had two hits and scored twice for the last-place Marlins, who have won the first two of the four-game series.

The Mets were limited to five hits by Neidert (1-1) and four relievers. New York has lost five of six.

Neidert allowed three runs and three hits, struck out five, walked four and hit a batter in 5 2/3 innings.

Taijuan Walker (7-6) took the loss. He lasted 5 2/3 innings and allowed four runs, eight hits, struck out four and walked two.

Blue Jays 7, Indians 2

In Toronto, Hyun Jin Ryu pitched seven solid innings in his first start for Toronto on Canadian soil, George Springer and Teoscar Hernandez homered in a win over Cleveland.

Ryu waited more than a year and a half to take the mound as a home player in Toronto after signing an \$80 million, four-year contract in December 2019. The Korean left-hander retired the first six batters and struck out eight to help the Blue Jays win for the fifth time in six games since moving back north of the border on Friday.

Ryu (11-5) allowed two runs and seven hits, and walked none. Right-hander Rafael Dolis worked a perfect eighth and left-hander Ryan Borucki finished with a 1-2-3 ninth.

Cleveland right-hander Zach Plesac (6-4) lost for the first time since April 20. He

matched a season high by giving up six runs while allowing a career-worst 10 hits. He walked none and didn't have any strikeouts.

Bobby Bradley and Harold Ramirez hit RBI doubles for the Indians.

Angels 11, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, top prospect Jo Adell drove in three runs while reaching base four times in his season debut, Phil Gosselin had three RBI singles and Los Angeles ended Texas' three-game winning streak.

Jack Mayfield homered for the Angels, who won for only the second time in six games.

Adell had a tiebreaking two-run double in the third inning that made it 3-1 and put the Angels ahead to stay, then added an RBI double in a four-run seventh. The 10th overall pick of the 2017 draft walked in his first at-bat and his third hit was another double in the ninth.

José Suarez (5-4) struck out six with one walk while allowing three runs on six hits over 5 2/3 innings.

Jordan Lyles (5-8) struck out six, walked three and gave up nine hits.

Andy Ibañez homered for the last-place Rangers, who missed a chance to match their season high with a fourth consecutive victory.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 1

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner threw seven stellar innings to beat his former team for the first time and Arizona knocked off first-place San Francisco.

Bumgarner (6-6) was pitching against the Giants for the second time since joining the Diamondbacks. He gave up just six hits and a walk while striking out four.

The Giants scored their

only run against Bumgarner on Curt Casali's solo homer in the fifth.

The Diamondbacks jumped ahead 3-0 in the second on Nick Ahmed's RBI double and Asdrúbal Cabrera's two-RBI double. Christian Walker and Ahmed each had two hits.

Tyler Clippard handled the ninth for his second save of the season.

Padres 8, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Tommy Pham hit a leadoff homer, Austin Nola had four hits and two RBIs, and San Diego thumped Oakland.

Manny Machado added two hits and scored twice for San Diego. Blake Snell pitched around traffic for five innings and allowed one run as the Padres won for the second time in three games since star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. went out with a shoulder injury.

Starling Marte had three hits for Oakland, including his first home run with the A's.

Pham hit his 12th home run on the ninth pitch from A's starter Sean Manaea (8-7). The Padres' leadoff hitter also had an RBI single in the third.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit his 498th home run and Detroit dealt Boston its fifth straight loss, a season high.

Cabrera added a single, giving him 2,944 career hits and moving him one ahead of Frank Robinson for 36th place all-time.

Tigers starter Wily Peralta allowed two runs on six hits in 4 2/3 innings, and five relievers combined to shut out the Red Sox in the final 4 1/3 innings. Kyle Funkhouser (5-1) earned the win and Gregory Soto pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 13 attempts.

Garrett Richards (6-7) took the loss, allowing three runs on five hits and two walks in four-plus innings.

Phillies 5, Nationals 4

In Washington, Bryce Harper's solo home run in the eighth inning against his former team was the difference in Philadelphia's victory over Washington, the Phillies' third straight win.

Harper hit a 430-foot home run to left-center off Javy Guerra, his 17th, for a 5-2 lead.

Philadelphia starter Zack Wheeler (9-6) gave up a two-run homer to Josh Bell in the eighth. Wheeler allowed eight hits and four earned runs in 7 1/3 innings. Jose Alvarado pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Jean Segura, J.T. Realmuto and Ronald Torreyes also homered for the Phillies.

Braves 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Freddie Freeman and Atlanta hammered Jon Lester in his first start for St. Louis, scoring five runs in the first inning and cruising to a victory.

The 37-year-old Lester (3-6) allowed the first seven hitters to reach and did not record an out until his 27th pitch.

Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer to start the scoring. Freeman and Austin Riley followed with singles before Dansby Swanson and Joc Pederson added run-scoring hits.

Freeman hit his 24th homer in the second off Lester, who gave up nine hits and six runs over five innings.

Max Fried tossed six shutout innings for the Braves, who have won seven of their last eight games in St. Louis. Fried (8-7) gave up just four hits over six innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

Twins 7, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Jorge Polanco delivered a go-ahead, three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting Minnesota over Cincinnati.

Heath Hembree (2-6) walked the first two Minnesota batters before striking out Brent Rooker. Polanco fouled off four two-strike pitches before connecting on a liner just inside the foul pole in right field.

Mitch Garver had a three-run homer in the fifth for the Twins, who had lost four of their previous five games.

Danny Coulombe (2-1) got the final out of the eighth. Alex Colomé allowed a single and walk to start the Cincinnati ninth before finishing for his third save and first since April 7.

White Sox 7, Royals 1

In Chicago, Dylan Cease allowed one hit in six scoreless innings, matching a season high with 11 strikeouts, and Chicago beat Kansas City.

Tim Anderson and Andrew Vaughn homered for AL Central-leading Chicago.

Cease (8-6) walked two and threw 103 pitches, allowing only Edward Olivares' leadoff single in the third inning, to nab his first win since June 30. Michael Kopech, Garrett Crochet and Ryan Tepera completed the three-hitter.

Rockies 13, Cubs 6

In Denver, Elias Díaz hit a grand slam, Kyle Freeland got his first win in more than a month and Colorado defeated Chicago.

Freeland (2-6) pitched five innings and earned his first win since June 28 before being removed with a left foot contusion. He was hit by a line drive with one out in the fifth, finished the inning and was replaced after throwing warmup pitches in the sixth. He allowed two runs on four hits and struck out five.

Sam Hilliard also homered and C.J. Cron had three hits and three RBIs for the Rockies.

Pirates 8, Brewers 5, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Brewers starter Adrian Houser was pulled with a no-hitter intact in the seventh inning, and Gregory Polanco and Pittsburgh rallied to eventually beat Milwaukee in 10 innings.

Houser left after 6 1/3 innings and 104 pitches with Milwaukee ahead 4-0. Polanco greeted reliever Daniel Norris with a single for the Pirates' first hit, keying a five-run rally.

Polanco snagged a deep drive by Eduardo Escobar at the right field wall to end the ninth, then had an infield single with two outs in the 10th that drove in a run for a 6-5 lead. Bryan Reynolds added a two-run single off Blaine Hardy (0-1).

TanHoldings, Southern United dispute girls U15 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The championship duel in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 will be between the Top 2 finishers in the elimination round.

No. 1 TanHoldings Football Club, which swept its five matches in the elimination, will take on No. 2 Southern United Football Club for the division crown following their playoff wins last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. TanHoldings punched the first finals ticket after crushing No. 4 Paire Football Club, 16-0,

while Southern United outclassed Kanoa Football Club-1 in the other semis pairing, 11-8, to advance to this Saturday's title match.

Pia Ngewakl starred in Southern United's victory after scoring six goals, while Summer Manahane and Rosie Saralu contributed two apiece. Megan Elayda was the third Southern United player to hit the board in their semis win over Kanoa-1, which got three goals each from Kaleen Leemarvin and Keziah Manabat and a pair from Sophia Quintos.

In the earlier semis game, TanHoldings leaned on the four goals apiece of Aubrey Castro and Rizza Relucio to pounce in on Paire. Five other

TanHoldings players scored in the lopsided match.

In other results in the division last weekend, Kanoa-2 blanked Shirley's FC, 4-0, to place fifth in the rankings.

BOYS U15 DIVISION Kanoa 2, TanHoldings 1

Kanoa formally bagged the division championship after edging TanHoldings in the last game in the group.

Kanoa wrapped up the double-round robin season with a 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record for first place, while TanHoldings dropped to a 3-0-3 mark for third place. Chris Daikichi II and Leland Deleon Guerrero delivered the twin goals for Kanoa, while Anthony Austria posted the

lone goal for TanHoldings.

Matansa 14, Paire 0

Matansa moved up to second place in the final rankings after hammering Paire.

Philip Megino and Isaiah Hossain fired six goals apiece for Matansa, which finished the short season with a 3-1-2 record. Paire was winless in the competition.

Southern United FC's Summer Manahane, right, attacks, while Kanoa Football Club-1's Isabel Manabat keeps a close eye on her during their semis game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 wins last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Joeten Motors Co. general manager Matthew Deets, third right, donates a 2021 Nissan Kicks on Aug. 3, 2021, as a hole-in-one prize for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, CEO Ben Babauta of tournament beneficiary Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, Joeten Motors Service manager Calvin Yamagishi, Joeten Motors Sales manager Boss Alvarez, Deets, and tournament committee members Catherine Perry and Tony Satur. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors for HANMI golf tourney

Joeten Motors Co. is offering a 2021 Nissan Kicks as their hole-in-one prize at the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan.

"Matt Deets and his team have come through once again," said tournament chair Glenn Policare. "We are so excited to have Joeten Motors as a hole-in-one sponsor for this year's tournament. Their level of dedication in supporting island-wide events like ours is a statement to their commitment in helping our islands."

Golfers will also have the opportunity to win \$10,000 cash as a hole-in-one and other prizes.

Only 12 slots remain for the tournament, and registration forms are available at www.saipanhoteles.org. The tournament fee of \$140 includes green fee and the awards luncheon. For an additional \$30,



players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held poolside immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

Hole-in-one sponsors are Atkins Kroll Saipan, Triple J Motors and Joeten Motors Company. The tournament's Presidential Suite sponsors are Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Marianas Visitors Authority. Deluxe Package Sponsors are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors are GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan,

IT&E, Kautz Glass and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package sponsors are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corporation, Dial Rent to Own, DOCOMO Pacific Saipan, Ernst and Young, Ina's Kitchen, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, Kensington Saipan Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club, Saipan. The tournament is also supported by numerous in-kind sponsors.

A portion of the tournament proceeds will support the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 in June 2022, a regional sporting event expected to attract close to 2,000 athletes and officials to Saipan.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairman Glenn Policare at glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. (PR)

SAPONG

From Page 20

of the women's 800m medal ceremony held last Tuesday at the Japan National Stadium. That event saw 19-year-old Athing Mu of the U.S. win the gold medal. Sapong is expected to again serve as presenter in the women's 1,500m medal ceremony tomorrow, Aug. 6.

As much as Sapong wanted to have some sort of interaction with Oceania athletes seeing action in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as president of the OAA, he said current COVID-19 protocols limited contact. He added that his routine since arriving in Tokyo for the World Athletics meeting last July 28 is pretty much hotel to meeting venue/Olympic venue

and back to the hotel.

Despite the limits brought about by COVID-19, Sapong said he's still thankful to experience the Olympics first hand and even recalled the very first time he watched the Summer Games on TV in 1996. "Now you can see them live and not only during the actual competition but also during warmups," he said, adding that he was able to witness first hand when Venezuela's Yulimar Rojas smashed the women's triple jump world record to take the gold medal. Ditto for both the men's and women's 400m hurdles.

Lastly, Sapong said some members of the Olympics International Committee he was able to share a conversation with found it odd that the country he comes from—the

CNMI—is not part of the Olympics. He tried his best to explain the consequence as to why the CNMI is not part of the Olympics and hopes that with the help of the Northern Marianas Sports Association, the islands would someday become part of the movement.

Unlike other U.S. territories like Guam and American Samoa, the CNMI continues to be shutout from the Olympics. Former NMSA president Michael White told *Saipan Tribune* in 2016 this is so because the OIC instructed the Commonwealth that it first needs to get things sorted out with the United States Olympic Committee before it could consider its application for Olympic membership. White wrote to USOC but never got a response.

BIG

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Martial Arts Gym.

"I'm hoping to get some fight opportunities while I am out here. Right now, I have two scheduled fights, Aug. 21, 2021 in Kentucky and Sept. 3, 2021 in Tennessee...I typically run in the morning, train at Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts in the afternoon, and close out my night at the gym," he said.

Cole, affiliated with Wise County Combat Club, is 5'10" and has a reach of 75 inches. Fi-

tial is 6'3" and currently weighs 253 lbs. Cole is currently the No. 1 ranked professional MMA heavyweight in Tennessee and sixth ranked in the U.S. Southeast. In the country, he is the 28th ranked pro heavyweight in the sport of MMA.

Fitial said he doesn't take this chance to revive his MMA career lightly. "First and foremost, I would like to thank the Man above for this great opportunity. Thank you to my wife and son for all the love and support they have given me to be able to pursue this life dream. Thank you to my sponsor

IT&E for making this dream come true. Thank you to my Muay Thai coach on Saipan, Tai Doram, for connecting me with a great team out here in Kentucky. Lastly, thank you to all my family, friends and the Mission Team back on Saipan for the outpouring love and support to keep me going. I am and will always be a very proud son of the CNMI."

Fitial last fought professionally in March 2019 in Hex Fight Series 18 in Melbourne, Australia where he was knocked out in the opening round by Australia's Benjamin Sosoli.

NMIBF

From Page 20

cronesian Games in the Marshall Islands. Members of the pool can also be considered for other international and regional tournaments.

"The NMIBF would like to congratulate the 40 players who are moving to Phase 2 of the NMI National Basketball Program. The NMIBF board, together with our development director and coaches, will provide them with the tools and assistance to meet the pool's objective in the second stage of the program," NMIBF president James Lee said.

"In return, we ask for their continued commitment to the program as there's more work ahead of us. We are also hoping that those who missed the cut for Phase 2 will continue playing and rejoin the program once we open a new series of tryouts for future

competitions. Our national program is structured not just for next year's Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands, but also for other tournaments so we would like to have as many players as we can to develop a deep and strong pool of potential national players," he added.

Well-wishers

The NMIBF introduced the 40 players during a meeting last Tuesday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The pool then had a Q&A session with pro player Jericho Cruz and Olympian and FIBA Oceania development manager Annie La Fleur via Zoom, while NMSA president Jerry Tan delivered a pre-recorded video message to the selection.

"Thank you for taking the call to join the national program and for your willingness to do the work at these

challenging times. Good luck and continue to work hard," Tan said.

Cruz, who represented the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, encouraged the group to put in the extra work before and after practice sessions and keep improving their game.

"Keep that hunger to get better every day," said Cruz, who used to play for Marianas High School before jumping into the collegiate and the Philippine Basketball Association in the Philippines.

La Fleur, who suited up for Australia in the 2000 Summer Olympics and also saw action in the WNBA from 1999 to 2003, encouraged the pool to take on the opportunity to represent the NMI in the Micro Games and other international tournaments and use the honor of being called a national player as motivation for their training sessions. (PR)



Thompson-Herah speeds to 2nd Olympic sprint sweep

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Saipan Tribune Sports

TanHoldings, Southern United dispute girls U15 crown

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20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation officials led by president James Lee pose with some member of the 40-player pool that will be moving on to Phase 2 of the NMI National Basketball Program. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**

NMIBF names 40-player pool

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has named the 40 players that will be moving on to Phase 2 of the NMI National Basketball Program.

In the women's division, the 20-player pool has a mix of former national players and young blood. Lia Rangamar, Irish Pagarao, Cassandra Camacho, and Michelle Kautz, who had donned the NMI



colors in the past, will have a chance to represent the Commonwealth anew after making it to the selection. Completing the pool are Sha Aina Mendoza, Sylvina Simram, Destiny Pangelinan, Angellyn Roligat, Richelle Kautz, Alliyah Fernandez, Marlene Lumabi, Jasmine Phan, Shanesse Aldan, Fiona Bucalig, Madeleine Alegre, Kina Rangamar, Azriel Fatialofa, Kaia Travilla, and Raenna Ramarui.

The men's division pool, on the other hand, has Joseph Sablan, Kelvin Kabiriel, Gerald Flores, Eli Aughenbaugh, Steve King, Coby Santos, Greg Sablan, Jeff Castro, Leo Naraja, Shane Deleon Guer-

rero, Khristian Itaas, Lucio Aldan, Donovan Brennan, Matthew Richardson, Ervin Villarin, Chioni Dela Cruz,



Pro player Jericho Cruz and Olympian and FIBA Oceania development manager Annie La Fleur give the players words of encouragement via Zoom. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**

30 others joined the tryouts for the national program, which involved training sessions three times a week for one

and a half months at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Oleai Sports Complex track oval. They were then evaluated based on their basketball skills and knowledge before the selection panel—made up of NMIBF officials, development director Elias Rangamar, and potential national team coaches—concurred on picking the 20 players each for the men's and women's divisions.

The 40 players will now start Phase 2 of the program this Saturday and the second stage of training sessions will run until Oct. 31. The program initially will have five stages and will culminate with the selection of the NMI national men's and women's teams that will compete in the 2022 Mi-

See NMIBF on Page 19

Sapong 'represents' CNMI in 2020 Tokyo Olympics

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The CNMI may not yet be part of the Olympic movement, but that didn't stop Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong from representing the Commonwealth in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Sapong told *Saipan Tribune* that he had the opportunity to travel to Japan and take part in the Summer Olympics after attending the 225th World Athletics Council Meeting held in Tokyo prior to the Summer Games. Sapong is the president of the Oceania Athletics Association and is a member of the World Athletics Council.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong takes a selfie at the Japan National Stadium, the main venue of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The NMA official left Saipan last July 26 and is expected back until after the quadrennial event on Aug. 10.

Sapong said it's simply surreal being part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and being in the company of world-class athletes and officials who have been part of the Olympic movement since the 1960s.

"It's a very, very different experience and crazy, crazy good. It's beyond comprehension to explain what I'm feeling and I feel really honored to be able to go to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as part of World Athletics and Oceania Athletics," he said.

He said his unreal experience went up several notches when he served as a presenter

See SAPONG on Page 19

'Big Hit' returns to the ring in 'Checkmate'

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital is set to make his long-awaited mixed martial arts return when he takes on Chandler Cole in the pro heavyweight fight of Showcase MMA's Checkmate set for Sept. 3 at the Meadowview Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee.

The 37-year-old Fital will come into the ring with a 15-9-2 win-loss-draw record. He will be challenging a fighter 11 years younger than him but 20 lbs heavier in Cole who has an MMA record of 8-3-0.

"I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to train outside of the CNMI. I never



really doubted or questioned if I was going to go back to fighting. Living on Saipan and being so isolated from opportunities made it difficult to find fights. With the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, I was not able to compete in Korea early this year but everything happens for a reason," he said.

Fital is currently in Louisville, Kentucky for training camp under Raymond Diaz and his stable, Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons

See BIG on Page 19

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fital prepares to train at the Blue Blood Muay Thai/Four Seasons Martial Arts Gym for his Sept. 3 fight against Chandler Cole in the pro heavyweight division of Showcase MMA's Checkmate. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**